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The BEAUTIFUL CAVERNS of LURAY

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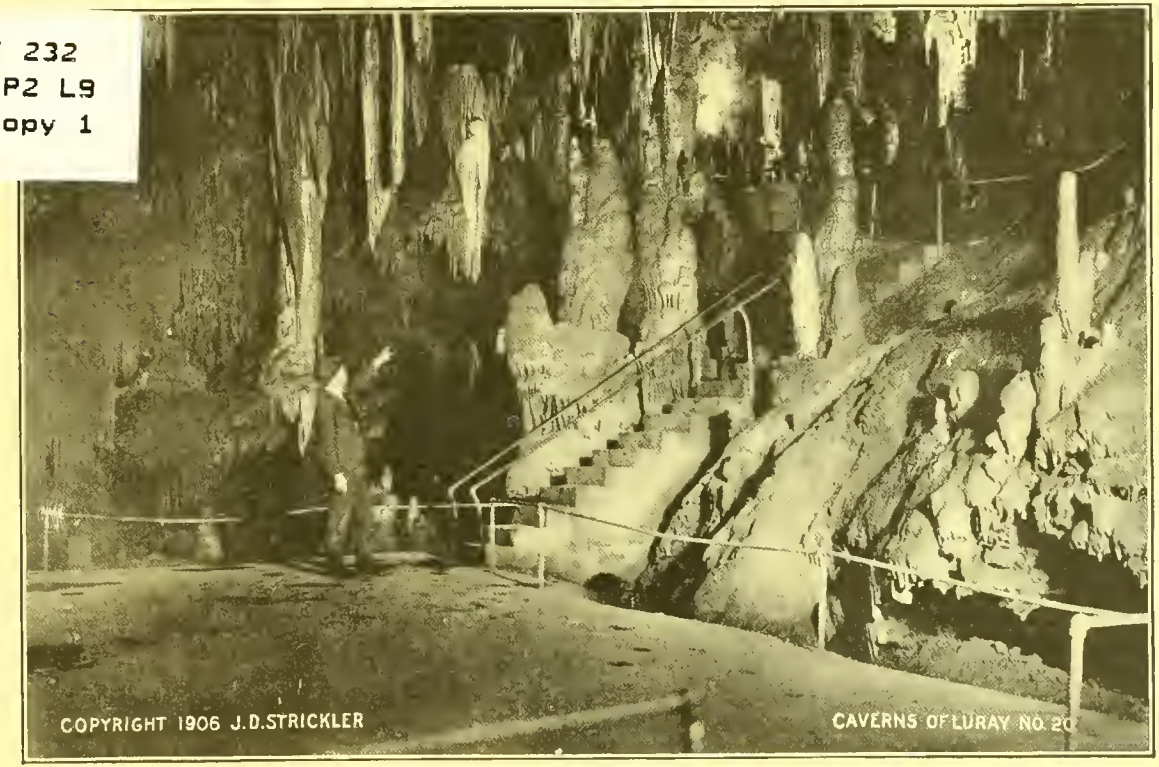

THE BALL ROOM

LURAY,
VIRGINIA

In the
Shenandoah
Valley

Three Miles
of
Subterranean
Splendor

Brilliantly
Lighted
by
Electricity

SEE
AMERICA
FIRST

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SIDE TRIP FROM WASHINGTON, D. C.

Visitors to the NATIONAL CAPITAL can arrange a trip by rail to the Luray Caverns with small outlay of money or time.

The route lies through grounds of great beauty and historic interest.

Detailed information can be had at Norfolk & Western Railway Ticket Office, 1419 New York Avenue, or Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Ticket Office, Fifteenth and New York Avenue, N. W.

AUTOMOBILE TOUR.

THE VALLEY TURNPIKE—a toll road—through Winchester to Staunton, Virginia, is one of the best long stretches of road in the country. Turning east at New Market and crossing the Massanutten Mountain, it is only fourteen miles to Luray.

The scenery rivals that in Switzerland. And while most of the road over the mountain is good, none of it is impossible to a good car. It is one of the finest trips in the country for motorists.

The landscape is not surpassed by any scenery in America. Several thousand people visit the Cave by this road every year. Cars drive right to the Cave House, which is fitted with Rest Room, Toilet Rooms and every convenience for the comfort of visitors. No change of clothing required. Ordinary street wear is all the visitor needs.

There are only a few Caves in the world that are lighted by Electricity. Of these Luray Cave is very much the largest and also the most beautiful. It is probably true that Luray Cave has more visitors each year than all other Caves in the United States combined.

"No one has traveled wisely who has not seen the Beautiful Caverns of Luray."

This page is published for information only. No railroad or turnpike corporation is financially interested in the Caverns, and owners of the Caverns have no interest in any railroad or turnpike.

"In Xanadu did Kubla Khan
A stately pleasure-dome decree,
Where Alph, the sacred river, ran
Through caverns measureless to man,
Down to a sunless sea."

SITUATED at Luray, Page County, Virginia, in the famous Shenandoah Valley, on the line of the Norfolk & Western Railway, in a region renowned for picturesque scenery, and celebrated for its historical associations, are the

CAVERNS OF LURAY

The caves were discovered in 1878, and shortly thereafter were opened to the public. Their great extent was not then known, or even dreamed of; and not until thoroughly equipped exploring parties had penetrated seemingly endless chambers and labyrinthine passages were their boundless riches disclosed and made accessible to visitors. Since that time the fame of the Caverns has penetrated the uttermost parts of the earth.

Within the past few years the number of visitors has been enormous. Persons from all quarters of the globe—scientists, explorers, and tourists—have wandered through the wonderful chambers, and the general verdict of their united testimony is that Luray Caverns excel all others in the combined extent, variety, scientific interest, and beauty of their calcite formations. A party sent out from the Smithsonian Institution reports that, "Comparing this great natural curiosity with others of the same class it is safe to say there is probably no other cave in the world more com-

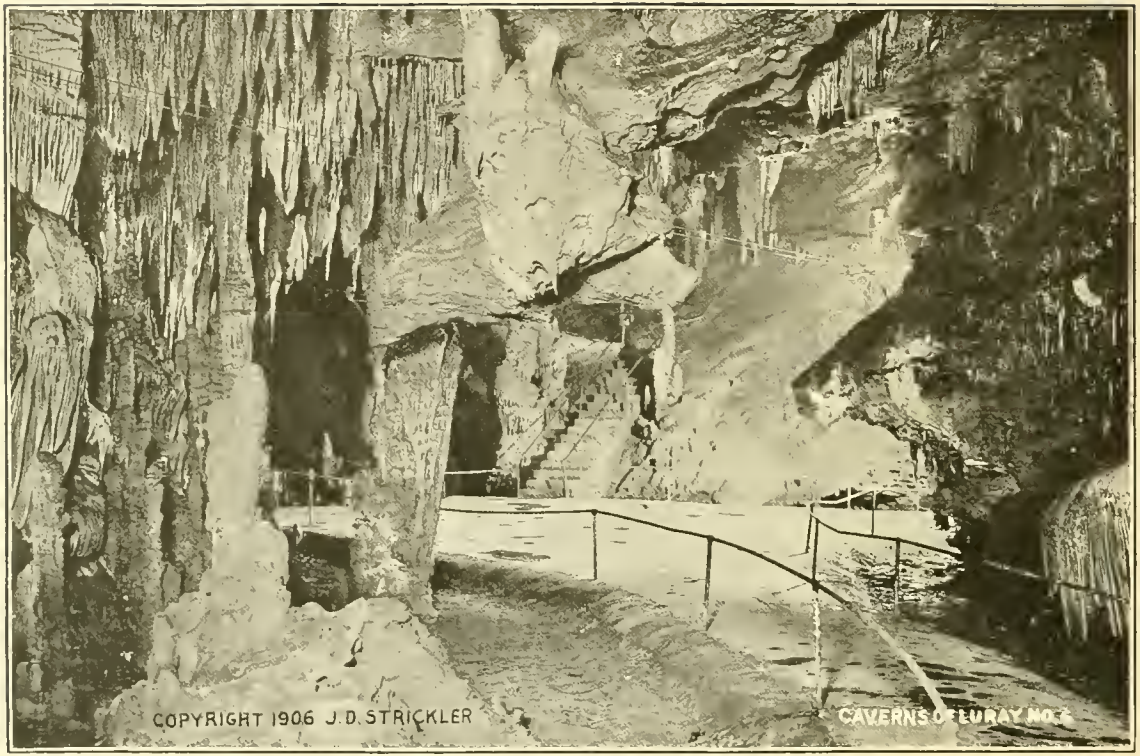
ENTRANCE AVENUE.

pletely and profusely decorated with stalactitic and stalagmitic ornamentation than that of Luray."

Recognizing the inestimable value of their remarkable possession, the management of the Caverns has provided every facility for visitors to see all the wonders in the most comfortable manner. Cement walks have been laid, stairways, bridges, and iron railings have been erected where such help was necessary, and the entire route through this subterranean palace is illuminated by brilliant electric lights. The interior is singularly free from dampness or dripping water, and no special preparation for the visit is needed in the matter of clothing. Plain clothing and stout shoes comprise the necessary outfit, wraps being superfluous, as the temperature remains, winter and summer, at about 54 degrees. The atmosphere is not oppressive, on the contrary it is singularly exhilarating and delightful.

IN THE FAIRY REALM

Entering the grand vestibule, the first emotion felt by the visitor is one of mute wonder. The mind fails to grasp the grandeur revealed in such a majestic manner, until it gradually accustoms itself to the fantastic shapes, the almost perceptible silence and the weird influence of this subterranean realm. Queer shapes present themselves at every turn, aping grotesquely the objects of the outer world, now suggesting some growth of animal life, now resembling some familiar vegetable formation, or taking the shape and form of some creation of man. Glittering stalactites blaze in front, fluted columns, draperies in broad folds, and a thousand tints, cascades of snow-white stone, illuminated by the glare of the electric light, fill the mind with curious sensations of wonder and admiration. Awe and reverence possess the beholder. He stands amazed in the royal chambers of the King of Nature.



APPROACH TO BALL ROOM.

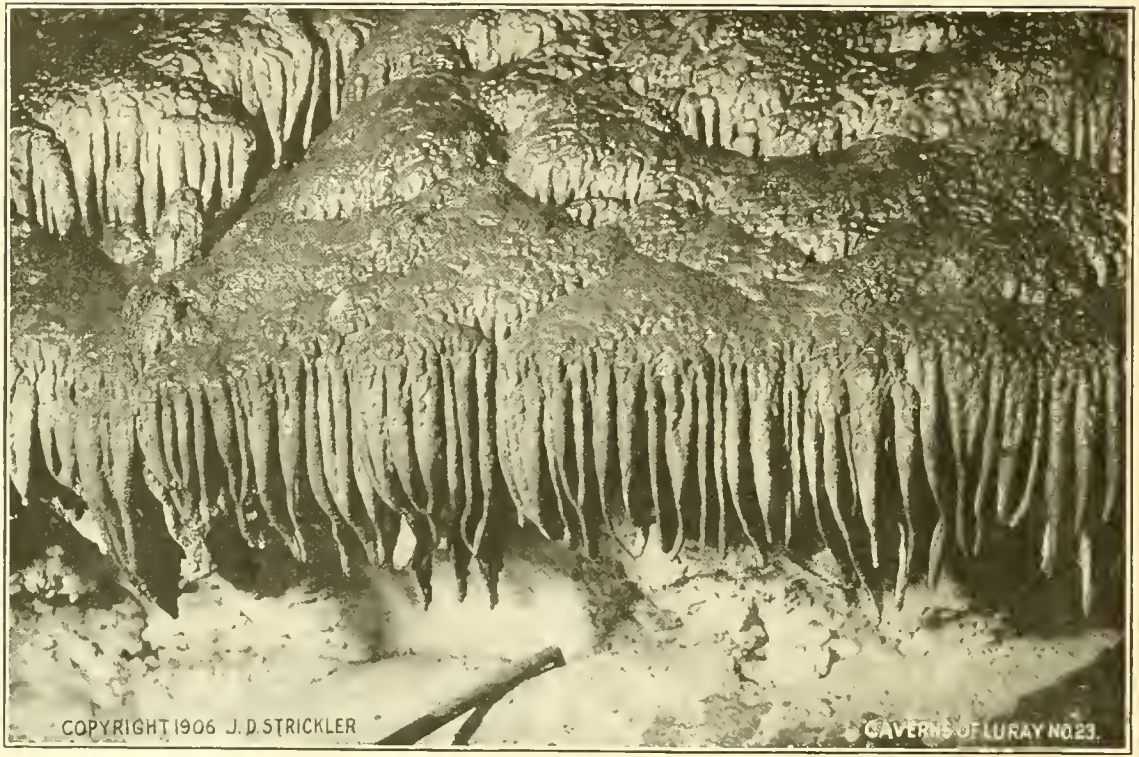
Various apartments and objects have been named in honor of some distinguished personage or after some thing to which they bear a striking resemblance.

The Elfin Ramble, an open plateau nearly four hundred feet long by one hundred and twenty-five in breadth, is the playground of the princesses of this fairy realm. Pluto's Chasm, a wide rift in the walls, contains a spectre clothed in shadowy draperies. Hovey's Hall is adorned with statuary and stalactite draperies, which, for beauty of coloring, translucency and symmetrical folding, are unexcelled by anything in the cave. Giant's Hall is a vast space, embracing several chambers. Heroic sentinel forms loom up on every side, guarding the marvelous beauty of Titania's Veil, and watching over the crystal waters of Diana's Bath. The Saracen's Tent, the Cathedral, with its grand organ, and the Bridal Chamber, all bear striking resemblance to the objects for which they are named. Hades, a region sparkling with limpid lakes and peopled with goblins, receives its name from the bewildering windings and labyrinthine meanderings through which the tourist must tread his way. Notwithstanding its uninviting name, it is a very attractive portion of the cave and contains many wonderful formations. The Ball Room, a magnificent apartment, gorgeously furnished, is full of interest, while Campbell's Hall, named for the discoverer of the cave, is rich in beautiful and enchanting ornamentation.

SILVER LAKES

In addition to the solid formations of stone and crystal, a number of beautiful lakes are found in various parts of the caves.

Crystal Lake is a body of pellucid water in a setting of sparkling stalactites, and the Imperial Spring is a silver pool richly enclosed in a forest of columns. It is arched above with myriads of stalactites, reflected with most beautiful effect in the calm flood of the spring.



FISH MARKET.

The transparent waters of these lakes are so deceptive that rash visitors have been known to subject themselves to a wetting in order to convince their skeptical minds of the genuineness of the fluid.

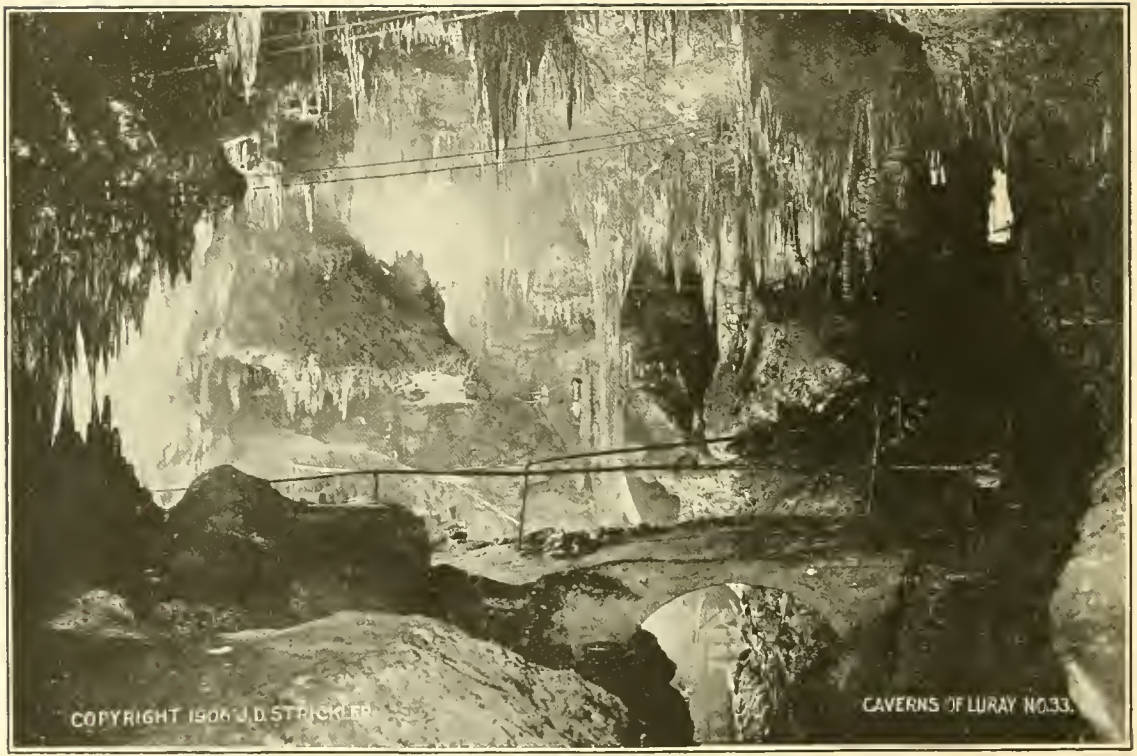
No other caverns are known in which there can be found such an infinite variety of quaint, curious, and wonderful formations. Almost every object in nature is here reproduced in startling similarity, while the curious shapes and indescribable grouping of thousands of others seem to be the handiwork of Nature in a playful mood. Fantastic, grotesque, beautiful, weird, grand, and superb, are words which find expression on the lips of every one who gazes upon the treasures of this "house not made with hands."

LATER EXPLORATIONS

During the winter of 1897 and 1898 new portions of this underground wonder, heretofore unexplored, were opened and made accessible to visitors.

In this newly developed section the high arching and richly ornamented domes found in other parts of the Caverns are a leading attraction, but the decorations of those here found are unique and surpass any previously discovered. Instead of the chandelier effect, with its bewildering and glittering array of translucent pendants which characterize the ceiling of the Ball Room, Giant's Hall and others, the surface here is a mosaic of rich patches in form like seaweed and coral, but in varied hues, from rich seal brown and deep salmon to the most delicate tint of rose.

These formations, appearing at close intervals, are massed in a brilliant mosaic by great waves of frothy white and cream, like the foam of the ocean tossed and whirled by the waves. Surmounting all this rich ornamentation that bids defiance to works of Art, are exquisite flutings of the richest and most delicate order, in pearly white and cream.



OVERLOOKING SKELETON GORGE.

Under the brilliant rays of the electric light, the effect of this rich blending of color is far grander than that of the most magnificent sunset the upper earth has ever known.

These "Senate Halls of Nature" can be compared to no work of man's hand. The finest work of Art would be a mute and baffled mimicry in the review of such intricate and gorgeous ornamentation.

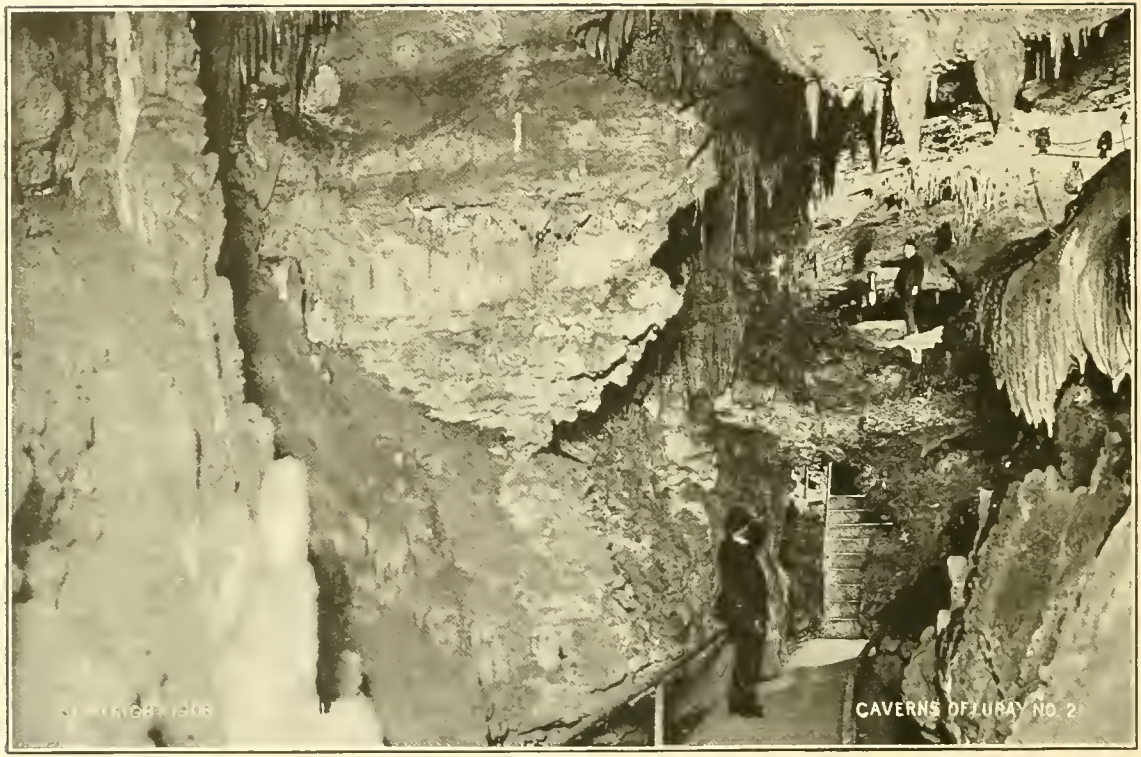
Objects of the outer world are represented in these newly discovered chambers as in heretofore explored portions of the Caverns.

In strange defiance to the laws of Nature and Geography, from the side of one of the domes found here pours the cataract of Niagara, and only a few feet distant is the Yosemite represented, with its three equidistant leaps in snowy crystals.

The "Golden Apples of Hesperides" are wonderfully presented and give variety to the richness of this wonderful cabinet of Nature.

The "Labyrinth of Perseus" is also tangibly manifested with the figure of "Ariadne" standing near its entrance in the supposed possession of the guiding "Thread."

The figure of the "Petrified Forest" is well sustained in a collection of stalagmites resembling a stunted growth. This is in many places broken, distinctly showing the successive rings and grain of wood in the miniature trees.



THE NATURAL BRIDGE.

This forest extends into the "Labyrinth of Perseus." Tiny white forms adjacent are supposed to represent the "Babes in the Wood," fixed in stony and unrelieved terror.

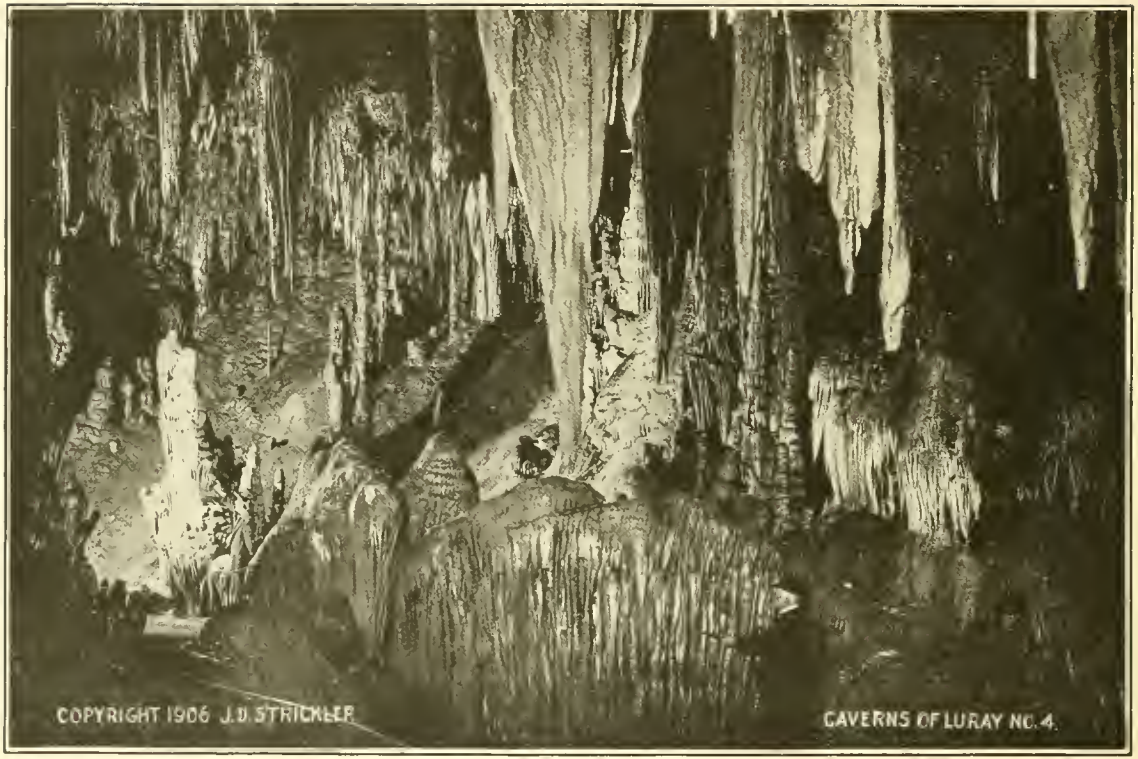
A formation of striking distinctness and beauty thrown out upon a dark background, is a tall, white figure standing immediately over the smaller ones. This is supposed to sustain the character of the "Guardian Angel."

Columns grand and beautiful, and pieces representing statuary, both in bronze and marble, are abundantly interspersed through this new section, which is also especially rich in the multitude, size, and magnificence of its voluminous draperies, which enclose the entire section on either side. In many of these the waving effect, instead of the perpendicular fall, is strikingly distinguishable.

These new discoveries are equal to anything yet known in the Luray Caverns.

CONCLUSION It is a task of recognized difficulty to describe the indescribable. This difficulty is enhanced, if possible, in the case of cave scenery by the fact that the impressions it leaves upon the mind of the beholder differ not so much in degree as in kind from those of past experience. A new order of sensations, ideas and emotions demands, of course, a new vocabulary. No straining or expansion of a terminology derived from the upper world will enable it to describe adequately the wonderful phenomena presented in this realm of Stalacta. The visitor who attempts description must be content, therefore, with seeking to impart enthusiasm without hoping to trace fully its causes. This only will remain clearly understood—the felicity of having experienced a sensation altogether novel.

The Persian monarch's desire—a new pleasure—is secured at length to the world in the Caverns of Luray.



ORGAN AND CHIMES IN CATHEDRAL.

HOW THE CAVERNS WERE DISCOVERED

THE BEAUTIFUL CAVERNS OF LURAY are formed under a great hill in Page Valley. This hill has an elevation of about 1,200 feet above sea level; and rises about 200 feet above the surrounding valley. It has been known as "Cave Hill" from an early day, because of a smaller cave variously called "Ruffner's Cave" or "The Old Cave," which has been known since pioneer times.

Mr. Andrew Campbell and Mr. Benton Stebbins, of Luray, became convinced from the structure of Cave Hill and certain geological evidences that a larger cave might exist under Cave Hill. Accordingly, in 1878, inviting Mr. William Campbell, also of Luray, to join them, they began a careful exploration of the surface of the hill. After much search, in an old sinkhole, or depression, among briars and fragments of stone, they found a place where cool air came through the crevices in the rock, escaping into the warmer outside atmosphere. They correctly judged this to be an indication of a cavity underneath containing a body of air cooled to earth temperature. At this point they dug until they opened into a fissure large enough to permit entrance. Mr. Andrew Campbell was lowered by a rope into the dark and mysterious Chambers of Silence. When finally he found a foothold and looked about him, his dim candle revealed unexpected splendors, and he knew that their dream had come true. This was August 13, 1878. Then followed patient and long-continued explorations, until nearly three miles of underground passage was discovered.

The Caverns consist of many large rooms, connected by natural corridors, or passageways. These do not lie in a straightaway course, but radiate from a central space. A small map of the Cave looks something like the web of a spider. Yet the tour requires almost no retracing of steps. The route is continuous, though circuitous, after leaving Entrance Hall.

Those who wish to study these Caverns from a scientific point will find material information in any of the principal encyclopedias, under "Luray Caverns." We also suggest a book entitled "Celebrated American Caverns," by H. H. Hovey, published by Clark & Sons, Cincinnati. Doctor Hovey is a recognized authority upon the subject of caverns, and has made special study of the Caverns of Luray.

PLEASE READ ALL THIS PAGE CAREFULLY TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS

TERMS OF ADMISSION TO LURAY CAVERNS

Open every day—including Sunday—all the year.

For each person, at 8.30 a.m. or 2 p.m. $1.00
For each person, at 7 p.m. or 9 p.m. 1.50
Regular Hours of Admission ..... 8.30 a.m., 2 p.m., 7 p.m., and 9 p.m.

SPECIAL HOURS.—When admission is desired at other hours than above named, we will accommodate if Guides are not all engaged. But the charge for admission will be 50 cents more for each person for Special Hours.

The Caverns are fitted with electric lights. But it costs as much to light them as to light the streets of a considerable town, because of the length of the tour. For parties of six or more making the tour in company, the electric lights, if desired, will be furnished without extra charge. But for parties numbering less than six, the Caverns will be shown by candles. If, however, such small parties desire electric lights they will be required to pay, besides price of admission, an extra charge as follows:

Electric Light for One Person	$2.00	Extra
Electric Light for Two Persons	1.00	Each, Extra
Electric Light for Three or Four Persons	50c.	Each, Extra
Electric Light for Five Persons	25c.	Each, Extra

Above charges include the service of guides, and will secure every necessary attention. Please remember that employees do not make these prices. Nor have they power to change them.

Excellent Modern Hotel accommodations can be had at several Luray Hotels at Moderate Rates. The entrance to the Caverns is about one mile distant from the Norfolk & Western Railway Station, where busses meet all trains.

For any further information, or assistance that can be rendered to visitors, address

LURAY CAVERNS CORPORATION, Luray, Va.

READY REFERENCE ROUTES TO THE LURAY CAVERNS

FROM	
New York Philadelphia Wilmington Baltimore	Via Royal Blue Line, Washington and Shenandoah Valley Route
Washington Harpers Ferry Cumberland Wheeling Pittsburgh	Via Baltimore & Ohio R. R. and Shenandoah Valley Route
New Orleans Meridian Birmingham Chattanooga Knoxville	Via Queen & Crescent Route, Southern Ry. and Shenandoah Valley Route
Memphis Corinth Huntsville	Via Southern Ry. and Shenandoah Valley Route
Richmond Old Point Comfort Fortress Monroe	Via Chesapeake & Ohio Ry. and Shenandoah Valley Route
Cincinnati Columbus, Ohio	Via Norfolk & Western Ry. Shenandoah Valley Route

FROM	
Portsmouth, Ohio Kenova, W. Va. Louisville, Ky.	Via Norfolk & Western Ry. Shenandoah Valley Route
New York Philadelphia Elmira Williamsport Harrisburg Hagerstown	Via Pennsylvania R. R. Cumberland Valley R. R. and Shenandoah Valley Route
Baltimore and Pen Mar Via Hagerstown	Via Western Maryland R. R. and Shenandoah Valley Route
Jacksonville Savannah Charleston Augusta Columbus	Via Atlantic Coast Line or Southern Ry. Chesapeake & Ohio Ry. and Shenandoah Valley Route
Atlanta Charlotte Danville Lynchburg Charlottesville	Via Southern Ry. Chesapeake & Ohio Ry. and Shenandoah Valley Route

PULLMAN VESTIBULED SLEEPERS AND COACHES ON ALL THROUGH TRAINS

Excursion Tickets are Sold by all Railroads and Steamship Lines to the Luray Caverns

Straight one-way and Excursion Tickets allow stop-over at Luray within final limit.

The scenery through the "Shenandoah Valley" and adjacent to the Caverns of Luray is magnificent, and second to no other section in the world.

SARACEN'S TENT.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR TRAVELLERS

GOOD HOTELS and boarding houses with all modern conveniences can be had in Luray. None better in any town in the Valley of Virginia, probably. No other town in the Valley entertains so many world-wide travelers.

Not far from twenty thousand persons visited Luray last year. These were from all parts of the civilized world. To entertain this throng of people keeps our hotels and boarding houses on the alert to please. And gives them a wide and valuable experience. Any visitor may rely on finding a place adapted to his taste or his means.

Luray is also a popular resort, especially in summer, because of its high altitude and cool nights, and its unrivaled splendor of landscape and sky.

The following is a list of licensed Hotels and Boarding Houses in Luray. For rates address those whose names here appear:

H. B. Mims, Laurance Hotel, Luray, Va.

H. T. Mims, Mansion Inn, Luray, Va.

Thomas Clooney, Clooney Hotel, Luray, Va.

Mrs. Ella Long, Boarding House, Luray, Va.

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For Ready Reference, Railroad Routes, see page 16. For List of Hotels and Boarding H
For Terms of Admission, see page 14.

NORFOLK & WESTERN RAILWAY

"The Shenandoah Valley Route"

Between the North and South

Via New York, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Luray, Natural Bridge, Roanoke, Bristol.

Through Pullman Sleeping Car Line, New York and Winston-Salem, N.C.; and Philadelphia and Gary, W.Va.

Summer and Winter Excursion Tickets to Luray on sale at all Principal Points.
Stop-over Allowed at Luray Caverns on all Through Tickets.

OFFICES

1245 Broadway .....New York
294 Washington Street .....Boston
107 E. Baltimore Street.....Baltimore
1419 New York Avenue.....Washington
Hamilton National Bank Building...Chattanooga
Cor. Gay and High Streets.....Columbus, Ohio
Banking and Trust Building....Knoxville, Tenn.
45 East Fourth Street.....Cincinnati, Ohio
838 Main Street.....Richmond, Virginia
223 Granby Street.....Norfolk, Virginia
722 Main Street.....Lynchburg, Virginia

W. B. BEVILL, *Passenger Traffic Manager* W. C. SAUNDERS, *General Passenger Agent*
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

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Luray Caverns Corporation, Luray, Virginia.

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